

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-05 /097 W

----- 069763

R 131125Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5131

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A T NOUAKCHOTT 0346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PFOR MR ML AG SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: THE MALI CONNECTION

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 319, USDAO DAKAR (DTG 091230 FEB), USDAO DAKAR
(DTG 101640 FEB), BAMAKO 535

1. SPANISH EMBOFF REPORTS THAT TWO MAURITANIAN VILLAGES, WHICH WERE LOST TO POLISARIO LAST WEEK (REPORTED NOUAKCHOTT 319), ARE NAMED EL MZERREB AND TAMSAGOUT. BOTH VILLAGES ARE LOCATED JUST INSIDE MAURITANIAN BORDER WITH MALI BETWEEN 24TH AND 25TH PARALLELS. VILLAGE OF CHEGGA, LOCATED IN CORNER OF MAURITANIA BORDERING ON MALI AND ALGERIA, MAY ALSO HAVE FALLEN TO POLISARIO ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT CONFIRMED.

2. ACCORDING TO SPANIARD, WHOSE INFORMATION COMES FROM MAURITANIAN SOURCES, MALIANS WANT TO STAY OUT OF SAHARA CONFLICT. ON ONE HAND, THEY WISH TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH MAURITANIA FOR ECONOMIC REASONS. ON OTHER HAND, MALI SEEKS TO MAINTAIN CORDIAL TIES WITH ALGERIA FOR POLITICAL AND
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MILITARY REASONS. ACCORDING TO SPANIARD, MALI DOES

NOT WANT TO GIVE ALGERIA ANY EXCUSE FOR SENDING TROOPS
ACROSS MALI'S LENGTHY BODER WITH ALGERIA. ALTHOUGH
MALI-MAURITANIAN BORDER IS EVEN LONGER, MALI IS NOT
WORRIED ABOUT PROSPECT OF MAURITANIAN SECURITY FORCES
CROSSING INTO MALI. MALI FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO REPORTEDLY
EMPHASIZED TO MAURITANIANS THAT NORTHWEST CORNER OF MALI,
WHERE POLISARIO FORCES ARE ALLEGEDLY TRANSITING, IS
ISOLATED AND DIFFICULT TO REACH. FOR VARIOUS REASONS,
THEREFORE, MALI HAS NO DESIRE TO COME TO AID OF GIRM.HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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